

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device ~~provided with~~ having a first image-taking mode ~~used for use~~ in a bright environment and a second image-taking mode ~~used for use~~ in a dark environment, comprising:

a lens unit ~~which forms an optical image of an object on an imaging element;~~

an iris ~~which adjusts a light~~ for adjusting a quantity ~~which has entered~~ of light entering said lens unit;

an imaging element having an electronic shutter function ~~of~~ for forming an optical image from such light entering the lens unit and outputting the such optical image of the object for ~~which the light quantity from said iris is adjusted~~ as an image signal;

an AGC amplifier ~~which amplifies~~ for amplifying an image/video signal from said imaging element and ~~can adjust~~ adjusting an amplification gain thereof;

signal processing means for obtaining a video signal by subjecting ~~the~~ an image signal amplified by said AGC amplifier to signal processing;

comparison means for comparing ~~the~~ a brightness signal level of ~~said~~ a video signal from the signal processing means ~~indicating the brightness of the object~~ with a predetermined reference brightness signal level; and

imaging control means,

wherein in said second image-taking mode, said imaging control means changes ~~the~~ a length of period of said electronic shutter function for every period of a multiple of two fields, continuously changes the electronic shutter-ON time (exposure time) in accordance with the

period, and holds the electronic shutter-ON time at a time point at which ~~the output of said comparison means at which said~~ the brightness signal level ~~matches said~~ equals the reference brightness signal level ~~becomes 0 (zero).~~

2. (Currently Amended) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the imaging control means comprises iris control means for adjusting said iris when ~~the~~ a brightness ~~around~~ signal level of a video signal from the signal processing means indicates that the light entering the lens unit is brighter than a predetermined value ~~and~~ or darker than a predetermined value and holding the iris when ~~the output of the comparison means at which~~ the brightness signal level ~~matches~~ equals the reference brightness signal level ~~becomes 0 (zero).~~

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the imaging control means comprises gain control means for adjusting the gain of the AGC amplifier when the brightness ~~around~~ signal level corresponds to a video signal ambient darkness that is darker than a predetermined value and for holding the gain value when the ~~output of said comparison means at which said~~ brightness signal level ~~matches said~~ equals the reference brightness signal level ~~becomes 0 (zero).~~

4-11. (Canceled)